

Clayton Parks & Recreation Meeting
Monday, September 13, 2021
Zoom Webinar

Members Present: Ben Beinfeld, Karen Berry Elbert, Susan Buse, Jim Craig, Matt Durham, Daniel Henke-Cilenti, Bridget McAndrew, Missy McCormick, Gary Pierson & Eric Schneider.

Also Present: Patty DeForrest, Dan Krewson, Lori Rice & Denise Ucinski

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the August Commission meeting were approved as written.

Addresses from the Audience:

There were no addresses from the audience.

Community Survey Report:

Ms. Patty DeForrest reviewed the City of Clayton Community Survey with the Commission. (See attached for all details.) The community survey results report included the following: purpose of the survey, resident's positive perception of the City, much higher satisfaction rates than other communities, priorities for improvement, feeling of safety in various situations, long and short-term trends, benchmarks, overall satisfaction with Parks and Recreation and priorities for investment. In regard to Parks and Recreation programming, Ms. DeForrest noted that the Parks and Recreation Department and the School District of Clayton collectively decided that they will not continue to offer the SummerQuest program. The camps went very well this summer so next year the offerings and how they are run will look quite similar.

Ms. DeForrest shared the overall components and processes of developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. She noted that programming evaluation will be a big part of the master plan process. The Commission will determine how much focus they want to have on each of the assessments. Mr. Jim Craig stated that when the planning begins it will be important to focus on the realm of what is practical to accomplish. Mr. Eric Schneider stated that focusing on the health and equity audit will be valuable. Additional discussions and details about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will take place soon.

Director's Report:

Ms. DeForrest reported that the Shaw Park Aquatic Center is currently staying open on weekends and certain hours during the week for lap swimmers. Members can buy a day or week pass if they would like to swim outdoors during the extended season. The tennis center continues to be busy with programs and private lessons. Center of Clayton membership numbers are gradually increasing. This school year only (due to the pandemic, this was not offered last year) Wydown Middle School 7th and 8th grade students will receive a free membership to The Center, next year we will return to offering this to just the 7th grade students. Park usage continues to be very heavy. Special events in parks and downtown Clayton are back and doing well. Regarding park projects: the Shaw Park playgrounds are being built at this time; Maryland Park demolition is currently underway with construction slated in early 2022 if Municipal Grant is received. The Oak Project design is going to ARB soon and the filter room maintenance project at the aquatic center will start after the pool closes for the season.

Old Business / New Business:

Mr. Craig gave kudos to Mr. David Willey and Mr. Patrick Magee for pulling off a great start to the youth soccer season despite the challenges. Mr. Schneider asked if park services would be directly affected by the no vote on Proposition A. Ms. Bridget McAndrew said not immediately as the Board of Aldermen will be closely evaluating the budget to determine the best way to handle the budget deficit while still offering excellent services to the community. Mr. Schneider proposed having the next Commission meeting in Shaw Park at the Enterprise Holdings Pavilion at 6:30 pm. All agreed to his proposal.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski